

ALASKA FARM REPORTER

Alaska Division of Agriculture
Alaska Cooperative Extension
Ag & Forestry Experiment Station



U.S. Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
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Palmer, AK 99645

October 21, 2004

04-10

ALASKA POTATO STOCKS

POTATO STOCKS IN ALASKA: The preliminary forecast of potato stocks on farms on October 1, 2004 was estimated at 159,000 cwt, 85 percent of the 2004 crop. Last year, 147,000 cwt of potatoes were in storage on October 1. Disappearance from harvest to October 1 was 27,000 cwt, compared with 21,000 cwt a year ago.

Hot dry conditions this summer led to high yields for growers that irrigated. Those without irrigation were dependent on what little precipitation fell. As of the date of this release not all growers had accurate production figures available. Revised figures will be published in the December Potato Stock Release if necessary.

OCTOBER 1, 2004 POTATO STOCKS 1,000 hundred weight

Year	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
October 1 Stocks	170.5	123.8	215.0	135.0	147.0	159.0
Production	185.0	129.0	230.0	154.0	168.0	186.0
October 1 Stocks as % of Production	92%	96%	93%	88%	88%	85%

2003 ALASKA POTATO CROP UTILIZATION & VALUE

Alaska potato producers sold 105,000 cwt of potatoes from the 2003 crop, or 63% of total production. Sales from the 2002 crop were 107,000 cwt or 69% of production. Sales include table stock, seed, & live-stock feed. Shrinkage and loss accounted for 45,000 cwt in 2003, while farm disposition accounted for 18,000 cwt.

ALASKA POTATO DISPOSITION 2001 - 2003

Items	2001	2002	2003
thousand hundred weight			
Total Production	230.0	154.0	168.0
Farm Disposition 1/	27.0	26.0	18.0
Shrinkage & Loss	78.0	21.0	45.0
Sold	125.0	107.0	105.0
Dollars			
\$ Per cwt	20.30	20.00	19.70
Thousand Dollars			
Value of Production	4,669	3,080	3,310
Value of Sales	2,538	2,140	2,350

1/ Household use, livestock feed and seed used on farm where grown

MILK PRODUCTION

ALASKA

September milk production totaled 1.3 million pounds, virtually unchanged from last year and August 2004. Production per cow averaged 1,090 pounds, the same as in September 2003. Milk cows at 1,200 head were also unchanged from last year.

Production during the nine months of 2004 totaled 11.3 million pounds compared with 13.2 million pounds during the same period in 2003, a decrease of 14% from the same period last year.

20 MAJOR STATES

Milk production in the 20 major States during September totaled 11.9 billion pounds, up 1.3 percent from September 2003. August revised production, at 12.4 billion pounds, was up 1.4 percent from August 2003. The August revision represented a decrease of 11 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,529 pounds for September, 18 pounds above September 2003. The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.77 million head, 6,000 head more than September 2003, and 4,000 head more than August 2004.

A BIG THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE RESPONDED TO OUR SURVEYS!

Dear Alaska Farmers,

Our annual Acreage & Production Survey along with a Prices Questionnaire was mailed out October 1st. We will be calling those farmers who have not responded to our mailing beginning the last week of October. If you still haven't filled out your survey, please consider getting it completed and in to us before then. We rely on each and every one of you to report data to us so that we can present a complete and accurate picture of how "Agriculture Counts" in Alaska.

ALASKA FARM BUREAU'S AG EXPO
Friday & Saturday November 12-13, 2004
Millennium Hotel Anchorage, Alaska
For more information contact:
Jane Hamilton (907) 895-4407

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